

NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

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DISABILITY COMMUNITY HONORS MARKEY FOR HIS LEADERSHIP IN MAKING TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act Marked by Award Ceremony Singling out Markey as "Elected Hero" and "Strong Consumer Champion"

WASHINGTON, DC - Representative Edward Markey (D-Malden), Ranking Member of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, was honored by 17 organizations committed to improving the lives of persons with disabilities on July 28, 2004, the fourteenth anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Markey was hailed as an "elected hero" for his leadership on a range of issues important to the disabilities community and children, including his pioneering work on telecommunications accessibility, closed captioning for the deaf, and the Children's Television Act.

"I feel privileged and humbled to receive this award from people who have spent their lives ensuring that people with disabilities are not dis-enfranchised from fully participating and contributing to their neighborhoods, their country and the world community. I am proud of this acknowledgement and intend to keep pressing, every day, to ensure that our society is open and free to everyone, regardless of their disability," Rep. Markey said.

As chairman of the telecommunications subcommittee in 1990, Rep. Markey shepherded the TV Decoder Circuitry Act through Congress, mandating that all TV sets included the capacity to provide closed captioning for deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers. In addition, he is the author of the Children's Television Act, which requires all broadcasters to provide educational programming for children. In addition, Rep. Markey has led the fight in Congress to amend Medicare rules so that those who are "homebound" due to their medical condition do not lose benefits when their family members, home health aides or friends take them outside the home for the kind of everyday experiences that define "quality of life," such as attendance at community meetings, sporting events or outings to a park for some fresh air."

In honoring Rep. Markey, Larry Goldberg, director of Media Access at WGBH of Boston, said "We in public broadcasting have so much to thank Congressman Markey for. For us and so many in this room and throughout America, we treasure the fact that for 20 years, Ed Markey has either led or been the ranking Democrat on the House

Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. We are all quite lucky to have such a strong consumer advocate in such a key position.”

The sponsors of the event included: American Association of People with Disabilities, American Council of the Blind, American Foundation for the Blind, The Arc of the United States, Association of University Centers on Disability, Easter Seals, Enable America, National Association of the Deaf, National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems, National Organization on Disability, National Spinal Cord Injury Association, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Self-Help for Hard of Hearing People, United Cerebral Palsy, United Spinal Association, VSA arts, WGBH.

Additional information on Rep. Markey’s legislative work is available on the Web at <http://www.house.gov/markey>